



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES APPOINTMENTS TO LEAD NEW CHICAGO ADVISORY COUNCILS

Council to also consider new Mayoral appointments for Board of Ethics, Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund Board and Chicago Community Land Trust Board

CHICAGO – The Chicago City Council today voted to approve new chairs announced by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot last month to lead the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Councils. The Chairs approved to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Councils will serve as liaisons between the City and key constituencies, and will be charged with elevating the needs of specific communities and solutions to address them and better support key vulnerable populations in our city.

“My top priority is ensuring that City government works to improve the lives of all of our residents, and today’s appointments are essential to ensuring proper representation of our communities as policy decisions are made,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “I am proud to appoint these leaders who represent the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the people who live and work in Chicago and throughout our 77 community areas, and who have dedicated their careers to continuously improving our city.”

The Chicago City Council approved the following appointments:

Appointed to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Councils
Advisory Council on Equity

- Esther Nieves, Independent Consultant (Co-Chair)
- Victor Dickson, President & CEO, Safer Foundation (Co-Chair)

Advisory Council on LGBTQ+

- Butch Trusty, Principal, The Bridgespan Group (Chair)

Advisory Council on New Americans

- Karina Ayala-Bermejo, CEO and President, Instituto del Progreso Latino (Chair)



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Advisory Council on Veterans

- Emanuel Johnson II, Program Officer, Robert R. McCormick Foundation (Chair, Reappointment)

Advisory Council on Women

- Jackie Kaplan-Perkins, Donor Advisor, Movement Voter Project (Chair)

The Lightfoot administration has amended the code to expand Council leadership – separating LGBTQ+ from the Council of Women – to ensure better representation of all communities. Each Advisory Council is led by a Chairperson responsible for setting the agenda and moving the group’s work forward by collaborating closely with a designated liaison in the Mayor’s Office.

Mayor Lightfoot and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) have launched an open call for applications to fill vacancies in the advisory councils. Applications will be accepted up until February 22, 2020. Interested applicants should contact communityengagement@cityofchicago.org with any questions. To apply to serve on one of the five advisory councils, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8X23NPD>.

In addition, Mayor Lightfoot recommended the following appointments to the City Council:

Appointed to the Board of Ethics

- Stephanie Cox-Batson, Chief Medical Officer, Near North Health Service Corporation; Attending Physician, OB/GYN Unit, Northwestern University Prentice Hospital (Reappointment)

Appointed to the Low-Income Housing Trust Fund Board

- Deborah E. Bennett, Senior Program Officer, Polk Bros. Foundation (Reappointment)
- Emilio L. Carrasquillo, Program Manager, Spanish Coalition for Housing
- Grace Chan McKibben, Executive Director, Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
- Andrew E. Geer, Vice President & Market Leader, Midwest, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
- Wayne L. Gordon, Pastor, Lawndale Community Church (Reappointment)
- Thomas McNulty, Partner, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP (Reappointment)
- David Wells, Managing Deputy Budget Director, City of Chicago Office of Budget & Management (Reappointment)
- Arshele Stevens, Chief Executive Officer, Girls Inc. of Chicago



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Appointed to the Chicago Community Land Trust Board

- Lissette Castañeda, Interim Executive Director, Latin United Community Housing Association

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